



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

March 14, 2014

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Executive Summary

This memorandum contains reports on the following:

- **Pursuit of County Position on Legislation**

- **AB 1596 (Garcia).** This measure would require that Vote by Mail applications specify that the only appropriate destination to mail back applications is the county registrar's office. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to support proposals that increase protections against interfering with the casting of ballots at polling places or by mail, including increasing fines and/or penalties for practices that attempt to impede the voting process or intimidate voters, **the Sacramento advocates will support AB 1596.**
- **AJR 39 (Hernandez).** This measure would call on Congress to amend Federal law to allow local governments to determine the best use of revenues collected through Public, Educational, and Government channel fees. Therefore, unless otherwise instructed by the Board, consistent with existing policies to increase flexibility for the County and to lessen the impact of adverse Federal policies on County costs and decisions-making authority, **the Sacramento advocates will support AJR 39.**

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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Intra-County Correspondence Sent Electronically Only*

- **Report on the Joint Legislative Audit Committee and Long-Term Health Care Facilities.** On March 12, 2014, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee approved, on consent, a request by Assembly Member Mariko Yamada to audit the California Department of Public Health's Licensing and Certification Program's (L&C Program) regulation of long-term health care facilities due to allegations that consumer complaints against these facilities are not being adequately investigated by the L&C Program.

Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

AB 1596 (Garcia), which as introduced on February 4, 2014, would require that Vote by Mail applications specify that the only appropriate destination to mail back applications is the county registrar's office.

Existing law requires individuals or organizations that distribute Vote by Mail applications and receive completed application forms to return the forms to the appropriate elections official within 72 hours of receipt. AB 1596 would require that Vote by Mail applications provide the address for the elections official and clarification that this address is the only appropriate destination to which a completed application can be mailed.

The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) indicates that current law requires that Vote by Mail applications provide the county registrar's address; however, the information is printed in small type and not on the return portion of the mailer. RR/CC reports that in some cases, Vote by Mail applications are mailed to voters by campaigns with a campaign address printed on the return portion of the application, directing the application to the campaign office and not the county registrar. RR/CC indicates that this can affect voters' Vote by Mail status and receipt of voting materials in a timely manner if the application is lost or not forwarded to the county registrar within the required 72-hour period. RR/CC notes that AB 1596 would protect against the interference of the Vote by Mail process and help protect the integrity of elections.

This office and Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk support AB 1596. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policy to support proposals that increase protections against interfering with the casting of ballots at polling places or by mail, including increasing fines and/or penalties for practices that attempt to impede the voting process or intimidate voters, **the Sacramento advocates will support AB 1596.**

At this time, there is no registered support or opposition on file for AB 1596. This bill is awaiting a hearing in the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee.

AJR 39 (Hernandez), which as amended on March 13, 2014, would call on Congress to amend Federal law to allow states and their municipalities to determine the best use of revenues collected through Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) channel fees.

Current California law allows local governments to collect a fee not to exceed one percent of a Video Service Provider's revenues to support PEG channels; however, existing Federal law restricts the use of these fees to capital expenditures only. The Chief Executive Office Multimedia, Cable and Telecommunications Division reports that the County currently collects approximately \$1.3 million per year in PEG fees, and that amending Federal law as AJR 39 encourages would give the County discretion and flexibility over the use of these fees.

This office recommends support of AJR 39. Therefore, unless otherwise directed by the Board, consistent with existing policies to increase flexibility for the County and to lessen the impact of adverse Federal policies on County costs and decisions-making authority, **the Sacramento advocates will support AJR 39.**

AJR 39 is pending hearing in the Assembly Utilities and Commerce Committee.

Joint Legislative Audit Committee and Long-Term Health Care Facilities

On March 12, 2014, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee approved, on consent, a request by Assembly Member Mariko Yamada to audit the California Department of Public Health's Licensing and Certification Program's (L&C Program) regulation of long-term health care facilities due to allegations that consumer complaints against these facilities are not being adequately investigated by the L&C Program.

The California Department of Public Health's L&C Program is responsible for licensing and monitoring more than 2,500 facilities within the State. The L&C Program has approximately 1,200 employees assigned to 14 district offices throughout the State and contracts with the County to perform these functions locally.

As part of the audit, the State Auditor will provide independently developed and verified information related to the L&C Program's regulation of long-term health care facilities. Specifically, the audit will include, but not be limited to: 1) a review of the number of public and self-reported complaints received by the L&C Program within the past two years, the average duration of completed investigations, the percentage of complaints that were substantiated on a statewide and district office basis, and the number of

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investigations that have been open for various periods of time ranging from two months to three or more years; 2) an assessment of whether the L&C Program is meeting applicable State and Federal requirements regarding the timeliness of complaint investigations; 3) a determination of whether the L&C Program has an effective plan to eliminate the complaint backlog and investigate incoming complaints in a timely manner; 4) a determination of whether the L&C Program evaluates compliance with both State and Federal facility standards during complaint investigations; and 5) a determination of whether the L&C Program failed to report on the timely investigation of complaints in its statutorily required annual licensing fee reports to the Legislature.

There was no indication as to when this audit will commence and/or how long it will take to complete.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA
MR:KA:IGEA:ma

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist